AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of automating a decision-making process related to an organization based on a collection of data reflecting a state of the organization, the method comprising:

selecting discrete coupleable items executable in a computer-implemented workflow environment, wherein the discrete coupleable items encapsulate work associated with activities identified by decomposing the decision-making process; said discrete coupleable items comprising:

a set of executable query directives, each executable query directive defining a query to be run against the collection of data;

a set of executable analysis directives, each executable analysis directive defining an analysis to be performed based on results of a query; and

a set of executable distribution directives; each executable distribution directive defining distribution of information based on an analysis to one or more destinations;

creating an executable workflow by coupling at least one of said executable query directives, at least one of said executable analysis directives, and at least one of said executable distribution directives; and

executing said executable workflow to run said query against said collection of data, perform said analysis based on the results of said query, and distribute the results of said analysis to said one or more destinations.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

scheduling the executable workflow for automatic execution.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein scheduling comprises:

specifying a condition as a state change in data of the data collection serving as input to the decision-making process; and

responsive to determining the condition has occurred, automatically executing the workflow.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

scheduling the executable workflow for automatic initiation upon detection of a specified state change in the collection of data

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow comprises at least one template having unbound values.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow comprises at least one conditional branch.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow comprises at least one gate.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow is sharable among a plurality of users.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the collection of data comprises a data warehouse.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the data warehouse comprises databases having disparate schema.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

tracking workflow execution duration time.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

during execution of the executable workflow, responsive to detecting a plurality of inputs to an item within the workflow, instantiating multiple instances of the item for accepting the inputs.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow is operable to specify a proposed course of action to avoid a potential problem.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the executable workflow is operable to specify a proposed course of action to avoid a budget overrun.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow is operable to identify a problem and provide a recommendation for avoiding the problem.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

specifying a condition to trigger automatic initiation of execution of the executable workflow in the computer environment.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the destinations represents a decision-maker.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the destinations is associated with a wireless device.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the destinations is an email address.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the destinations is associated with web page.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the destinations is associated with database.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the items defines a presentation event to a decision-maker.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
tracking a decision-maker's reaction to the presentation event.

25. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow comprises a metasequence.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
persisting the interim state of the workflow;
providing access to the interim state of the workflow to a decision-maker.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein providing access comprises providing a hyperlink to the interim state of the workflow.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow distributes a link to interim processing performed during execution of the workflow.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow performs closed-loop processing without further user input.

30. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow reflects best practices of the organization.

31. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow reflects best practices of the organization as determined by repeated execution and refinement of the workflow.

32. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow distributes information based on stored user permissions.

33. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow selectively distributes exceptions when detected in the collection of data.

34. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

publishing the executable workflow to a plurality of users of the computer environment.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

scheduling the executable workflow for periodic execution to provide notifications of data exceptions in the data collection to at least one of the destinations.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one of said executable distribution directives is operable to distribute information to a web site, the method further comprising:

scheduling the executable workflow for periodic execution to update the web site.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

scheduling the executable workflow for periodic execution to automatically order additional inventory responsive to detecting a shortage.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one of said executable distribution directives is configurable to distribute information to a variety of destination types.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47 wherein the destination types comprise the following destination types:

a wireless device destination type; and

an email destination type.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein

at least one of the destinations is associated with a user; and

distribution of at least some of the information directed to the at least one of said executable distribution directives is blocked based on stored permissions of the user.

50. (Original) The method of claim 49 wherein

at least one of the destinations is associated with another user; and

access to the blocked information is permitted for the other user based on stored permissions of the other user.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the executable workflow produces interim results, the method further comprising:

storing the interim results; and

distributing to at least one of the destinations a link by which the interim results can be accessed.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51 further comprising:

blocking access to at least a portion of the interim results by a user based on stored permissions for the user.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Canceled)

62. (Canceled)

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the selected discrete coupeable items is sharable among a plurality of users.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the selected discrete coupeable items is included in another executable workflow.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

publishing the executable workfow to a plurality of users.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67 further comprising:

accepting user edits to the published executable workflow; and

saving the edited published executable ~~workfloe~~ workflow as a separate executable workflow.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Canceled)

71. (Canceled)

72. (Canceled)

73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the decision-making process comprises a financial-based decision-making process for the organization;

wherein the executable workflow is operable to identify budget overruns for cost centers;

wherein the collection of data comprises a data warehouse;

wherein the at least one discrete coupleable item defining a query is operable to generate information relating to the cost centers;

wherein the at least one discrete coupleable item defining an analysis is operable to generate information to identify significant budget overruns;

wherein the at least one discrete coupleable item defining distribution is operable to distribute information indicating the identified budget overrun to a manager responsible for the cost center;

and wherein the method further comprises:

scheduling the executable workflow for periodic execution; and

executing the executable workflow to generate automatic notifications to the manager responsive to detecting a budget overrun.

75. (Canceled)